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(54) Title: LATENT PHASE VIRAL INTERLEUKIN-10-(VII-10) AND USES THEREOF

(57) **Abstract:** The present invention relates to a purified nucleic acid sequence encoding a homologue of human interleukin 10 (IL-10), wherein said IL-10 homologue is expressed during the latent phase of infection by a virus of the herpesviridae group. The present invention also relates to uses of this polypeptide, in particular for diagnosing disease states and screening for modulator and inhibitor compounds of such polypeptides and in turn the virus itself, screening for infection in vertebrates and biological tissue, cleansing of infected biological tissues, and in the treatment and/or prophylaxis and/or diagnosis of disease caused by a virus of the herpesviridae group.